

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is amended.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Bryon Gehman in the November 27, 2006 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. Amendments to the Claims

During the interview, the Examiner asserted that no antecedent basis is provided for the phrase "inner space" in claim 1, and requested clarification. Applicants have addressed this by amending claim 1 to recite "an inner space of the tubular container."

Applicants have also amended claim 1 to recite the feature of "wherein the divided compartments each are in communication with a common opening, such that the contents in the respective compartments can be simultaneously discharged through the common opening." Support for an example of this feature is clear from Fig. 7(B) and the associated description. As agreed during the interview, the cited references do not teach or suggest a container having this feature.

For these reasons and those provided in Applicants' Amendment dated October 27, 2006, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102 must be withdrawn. Applicants further submit that dependent claims 2-9 are allowable because of the dependency of these claims to allowable independent claim 1, as well as additional features these claims recite.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-10 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 25, 2007

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